

OT SURVEY: PENTATEUCH

WEEK 3: EXODUS 1-18

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

- In this Series we will be going through the Old Testament books of the Pentateuch.
- We need to know our Bibles from front to back.
 - What implications does this have for my life?
 - What are the major themes in each book of the Bible?
 - How does each book fit within the overall framework of the Bible?
 - When I read each section of Scripture, what are commonly misread passages?
- Each year we will highlight each part of Scripture, both its importance and profitability (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- Specifically, the first five books of the Bible, called the Pentateuch (pent = 5), give us the foundation for how God has ruled and reigned over his creation through the first 2500 years of the history of the world.
- God has self-revealed the account of His creation, the establishment of His covenant with Israel, and the laws that govern His people.
- If your neighbor asked you what the difference is between each book of the Pentateuch, could you help?
- **Class Schedule:**
 - October 26: Genesis 1-11
 - November 2: *Missionary Update: The Streets*
 - November 9: Genesis 12-50
 - **November 16: Exodus 1-18**
 - November 23: Exodus 19-40
 - November 30: Leviticus
 - December 7: Numbers
 - December 14: Deuteronomy

INTRODUCTION TO EXODUS

- It has been nearly 400 years of being enslaved to Egypt for Israel
- See Abraham's Wake-Up surprise after the Abrahamic Covenant:

Genesis 15:13-16 ~ Then God said to Abram, "Know for certain that **your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years.** ¹⁴ But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the wrongdoing of the Amorite is not yet complete."

Exodus 1:7 ~ But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them. Deliberate cross reference back to Gen 1:28; 9:1, 7; 17:1-6)

- “The Exodus narrative reminds us that God is a deliverer, and it challenges us to trust in His plan, even in the face of oppression or hardship.”¹

EXODUS 1-18 OVERVIEW

- God established his existence, creation, and relationship to creation.
- Exodus begins with **grief** and ends with **glory**.
- Exodus is about a growing nation and a God who cares for them (2:24-25) by immanent action (plagues) and transcendent power (slaves freed without a battle!)
- Exodus is about a hardhearted Pharaoh used by God for his purposes.
- Exodus highlights God’s faithfulness in the first part of Abraham’s promise, that God would **multiply his descendants** and bring them out of a foreign land toward the **promised land**.
- God would **establish his law** with his people at Sinai.

Author

- **Moses** wrote the book of Exodus, as well as Genesis, Numbers, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy, and Psalm 90.
 - **Exodus 24:4** ~ “**And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord.**”
- **Moses** is introduced, commissioned, and prophetically speaks for God’s people and to God’s people.
- **Moses** wrote around 1445 - 1405 B.C. in the last 40 years of his life.²

Key People of Exodus 1-18

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| • Moses | author and prophet of Israel (2-40) |
| • Miriam | sister of Moses, prophetess (2:7; 15:20-21) |
| • Jethro | Midian priest/shepherd who becomes Moses’ father-in-law (3:1; 4:18; 18-12) |
| • Aaron | brother of Moses and first high priest of Israel (4:14-40:31) |
| • Joshua | successor of Moses, military leader in the Land (17:9-14; 24:13; 32:17; 33:11) |
| • Nation of Israel/Egypt | Fruitful people of Abraham, oppressive people of Pharaoh (1:7-8; 13) |

Key Places of Exodus 1-18

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|----------------|--------------|
| • Egypt/Goshen | • Wilderness |
| • Midian | • Sinai |

Key Events of Exodus 1-18

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Oppression | • Passover |
| • Moses meeting God | • Crossing of the Red Sea |
| • Moses’ interactions with Pharaoh and Plagues | • Journey to Sinai |

Key Verses from Exodus 1-18

1:7-8; 2:24-25; 3:7, 14; 12:27; 14:13; 15:1-18

Exodus 14:31 ~ When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

¹ Bible Repository, <https://biblerepository.com/the-book-of-exodus-overview/>

² [1 Kings 6:1](#) indicates the Exodus occurred 480 years prior to the 4th year of Solomon's reign. His 4th year is variously dated at 966/960/957 B.C., placing the Exodus at 1446/1440/1437. <https://bible.org/article/introduction-book-exodus>

Outline:³

Theme:

1. Oppression 1:1 - 12:36
2. Liberation 12:37 – 15:21
3. Itineration 15:22 – 19:25
4. Divine Revelation 20:1-24:18
5. Divine Veneration 25:1-40:38

OR Location:

1. In Egypt 1:1 – 15:21
2. To Sinai 15:22 - 19:2⁴
3. At Sinai 19:3 – 40:38

OR God's Actions and Man's Response:

1. God's Saving Act: Deliverance Out of Distress (1-14)
2. Man's Response in Praise (15:1-21)
3. God's Action: Preservation (15:22 – 18:27)
4. Man's Response in Obedience (19-31)
5. Transgression and Renewal (32-40)

All three highlight God's action of redemption out of slavery just as promised in Genesis 15:13.

Timeline:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|--|
| • Chapter 1 | 400 years | Genesis 15:13 | "enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years" |
| • 2-15:21 | 80 years | Acts 7:23, 30 | "when he was approaching forty... after forty years" |
| • 15:22-19:2 | 3 months | Exodus 19:1 | "in the third month... out of the land of Egypt" |
| • 19:3-40:38 | 11 months | Numbers 10:11 | "second year, second month" (minus 3 months) |

EXODUS 1

- Generations after Joseph, the leadership of Egypt has changed, and they do not know about the blessing Joseph was to Egypt.
- They feared the children of Israel because of their rapidly growing size.
 - Attempt 1: Manual **labor** (1:8-14), resulting in resiliency.
 - Attempt 2: **Kill** all Hebrew males at birth via Hebrew midwives (1:16), resulting in resistance.
 - Attempt 3: **Kill** all Hebrew males at birth via Egyptians (1:26), resulting in rescue.

Genocide

³ Victor Hamilton, *Handbook on the Pentateuch*, 141.

⁴ John MacArthur (John MacArthur, *MacArthur's Quick Reference Guide to the Bible*, 5) groups the exiting Egypt from 12:37 as the breaking point away from Goshen, but Hamilton uses the final separation from the Egyptian soldiers at the Red Sea as the dividing line.

- If successful, “Israel would have been gradually reduced entirely to females and insurrection would be impossible, the people would have been dissolved, leaving to Egypt their women-power and reproductive capacity.”⁵
- Contrast: One king (Pharaoh) trying to eliminate God’s people VS. another KING saving His people.
 - Both the whole of the people and the individual Moses are in God’s hands!

Hebrew midwives and lying

- These Hebrew midwives “feared God” and allowed the male infants to live (Exodus 1:17).
- They valued God’s law above the law of the land (which now included infanticide).
 - God values life (Exodus 20:13) and God values truth (Exodus 20:16; Leviticus 19:36).
 - God cannot lie (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18)
 - “So, if God is always truthful, and if His truthful Word teaches us to be honest and not lie, how can we ever say that God has authorized us to lie in certain situations?”⁶
- They were right in disobeying their government to kill infants Acts 4:19-20 and Rom 13:1 and 1 Pet 2:20)
 - Resistance to tyranny, not casual, blind following of anti-biblical orders.
- But were they right to lie about it?
- Their faith is commended, but not their methods.
 - Feared God
 - God was good to them, and good to Israel, multiplying the people
 - Rewarded with households
- We do not need to justify the midwives’ lie nor Rahab’s.
 - God can accomplish his plans in other ways (God doesn’t *need* our sin to accomplish his plans)
 - God’s purposes can work through the sins of man.
 - God loves consistent obedience, not situational obedience.
- Willingness to suffer legal consequences in the face of divine mandate
 - Elijah: the “troubler of Israel” because he opposed Ahab (1 Kings 18:17).
 - John the Baptist: beheaded after rebuking Herod (Mark 6:18-29).
- Deception vs lies. Killing vs murder. (no look pass, spies in war, dyed hair, toupee, and fake Nike’s)
- As with Rahab, mentioned as the only Gentile in Hebrews 11, the faith to side with God was commended, the methodology was not commended.

⁵ Moshe Greenberg, *Understanding Exodus*, 29, quoted in Hamilton, 144.

⁶ Eric Lyons, “Isn’t Lying Permissible in Certain Situations?” *Reason and Revelation*, vol 40:7, 34.

EXODUS 2-4

Moses Beginnings (2:1-10)

- He was born during the time of infanticide.
- He is rescued by his mother and sister and ultimately saved by Pharaoh's daughter.
 - Reminder of Joseph's unlikely place in a king's palace
- Moses: means "drawn out of the waters" of the Nile.
 - The place where all baby boys were to be slaughtered (1:21) He was saved via the Nile.
 - Parallels the Pharaoh's names: Ah**m**ose, Thut**m**ose, Ramses, but not the Biblical purpose.
- Moses' sister convinces Pharaoh's daughter she will need help- Moses' mother nurses him!

Moses' Emotions (2:11-15a)

- Moses acts out of good intentions to take the law into his own hands (2:11-12)
- Defender of the oppressed or antagonist?
- Identical situation the next day between two Hebrews.
 - *Should sin be justified for all mistreatment or just by our enemies?*
- He is shunned by his own people despite that it was an Egyptian (2:14)
 - Foreshadowing of a greater prophet (Deut 18:15)... rejected by his people (Acts 7:35; 52)

Moses' Exile (2:15b-22)

- In fear for his life by Pharaoh, who now knows of the murder and will seek justice, he flees
 - Midian has been proposed to be everywhere from Saudi Arabia to China.
 - Jethro returns home to Midian while enroute to Sinai (), so likely in the middle-east.
- He again has saved someone from their demise (2:17), foreshadowing his role as Israel's leader.
- Marries Zipporah, daughter of a Midian priest (2:16; 3:1).
- God has not forgotten the groanings of Israel, nor his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Moses Meets God

- 3:6 ~ "I am the God of ... Abraham, The God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"
- Moses responds in fear ~ **Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.**
- 3:7-8 ~ God recognizes the oppression of HIS people, hears, is aware of their sufferings, has come to rescue them, bring them up to a land...
- 3:10-4:17 With signs and assurances, Moses is commissioned with the help of his brother Aaron.

Exodus 3:14-15 ~ And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God furthermore said to Moses, “This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is the name for all generations *to use* to call upon Me.

- Moses fears, God answers according to his fear:
 - Incredibility: he is given a rod, a hand, a cup of water (4:2-9)
 - Inarticulateness: he has a humble heart (Acts 7:22 ~ instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds)
 - Insubordination: he is provided a brother who had the trust of the people (see calf incident)

Exodus 4:29-31 ~ Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the sons of Israel; ³⁰ and Aaron spoke all the words which the Lord had spoken to Moses. He then performed the signs in the sight of the people. ³¹ So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, they bowed low and worshiped.

EXODUS 5-11

Pharaoh's Hard Heart

- Pharaoh was an evil man, wicked against the Israelites, God's messenger, and against God.
- God declared ahead of time that He would harden Pharaoh's heart for his redemptive purposes.
- “He hardened his heart (Exodus 8:15; 32) despite many messages, warnings, and commands.
- God hardened his heart by means of Pharaoh hardening his own heart.
- God knows the rebellion in Pharaoh's free choice to rebel, and he “gives him over without restraint” to that evil hardening so that he will display his power through Pharaoh (Exodus 9:16, 18)

Pharaoh's Plagues (7:14-11:10)

- God sent plagues to prepare the redemption of Israel and to deal with Pharaoh's heart.
- Moses was to be listened to as if he were Yahweh!

Exodus 7:1, 4 ~ Then Yahweh said to Moses, “See, I set you as God Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.... 4 But Pharaoh will not listen to you. And I will set My hand upon Egypt and bring out My hosts, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments. (LSB)

- Israel was to know that **God** did this!

Exodus 6:7 ~ ...and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

- Egypt and Pharaoh were to know that **God** did this!

Exodus 7:5, 17ff ~ and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord... 17 by this you [Pharaoh] shall know that I am the Lord...

EXODUS 12-15:21

Passover (12:1-13:16)

Exodus 12:13 ~ **When I see the blood I will pass over you**

Exodus 12:23a ~ **the Lord will pass over the door...**

Exodus 12:27 ~ **It is a Passover sacrifice to the Lord who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.**

- Passover (*pesah*, Hebrew) means to protect, stand guard over.

Exodus 12:23b ~ **...and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you.**

- Exodus 12 lays out the When (12:3, 12), What/how/why(12:4-13), and Who (12:3, 47) of Passover.
- The unblemished lamb and the LAMB

Exodus 12:46 ~ **It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside of the house, nor are you to break any bone of it.**

John 1:26 ~ **“Behold, the Lamb of God!”**

John 6:53,54 ~ **“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. ⁵⁴He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.**

John 19:36 ~ **For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, “Not a bone of Him shall be broken.”**

EGYPT TO SEA

- God leads his people a specific way (13:17)
- God leads a nation (600,000 men plus women, children under 20, and Levites, ~2 million)
- God miraculously delivers Egypt through the waters of the Red Sea, but judges Egypt with that Sea.
- God is the focus of the SONG OF THE SEA of chapter 15, both in his acts and his nature.
 - Other nations will not keep or delay Israel from God’s promised land (Gen 15:13),
 - only their sin and disobedience.

EXODUS 15:22-18

A. (15:22–27) WATER AT MARAH⁷

Our circumstances always change, but our faith in god’s provision should never waver

B. (16:1–36) MANNA AND QUAIL FROM HEAVEN

God’s people need to stop complaining and trust in his faithful provision for all their needs

C. (17:1–7) WATER FROM THE ROCK

Testing God by doubting his powerful presence to provide exposes our spiritual immaturity but enhances god’s patience and grace

⁷ Outline for this section from Bible Outlines: <https://www.bibleoutlines.com/exodus-summary/>

D. (17:8–16) PROTECTION FROM THE AMALEKITES (SPIRITUAL WARFARE)

Victory in spiritual warfare requires god's people actively fighting while depending on the power of the lord who deserves all the credit

E. (18:1–27) JETHRO'S VISIT TO MOSES

Testimony to the supremacy of God and counsel regarding the value of shared leadership

GOD'S CHARACTER

1. God is Glorious (15:1, 6, 11)
2. God is Holy (15:11)
3. God is all-powerful (6:3; 8:19; 9:3, 16; 15:6, 11-12)
4. God is provident (15:9-19)
5. God is unequaled (9:14)
6. God is wise (3:7)
7. God is wrathful (7:20; 8:6, 16, 24; 9:3, 9, 23; 10:13, 22; 12:29; 14:24, 27)
8. God is personal "I will be your God" (6:7), The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (3:13, 15, 16), "the Lord, the **God of Israel/Hebrews**" (3:18; 5:3; 7:16; 9:1, 13; 10:3)

IMPLICATIONS FOR TODAY

1. God is glorious, highly exalted, and moves the nations and world rulers to his bidding (15:1)
2. God is intricately involved in humanity, caring about each one of us and the afflictions we face (3:8, 16)
3. Pharaoh let them go, but then changed his mind, chasing after them. Israel feared and fretted immediately, as if God would not deliver them (14:10-12).

Exodus 14:13-14 ~ But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will perform for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again, ever. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, while you keep silent."

4. God is not confused, worried, or mistaken. Our response: trust the Lord with the next step of obedience:

Exodus 14:15 ~ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward.

Exodus 14:31 ~ When Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.